



Montgomery Fire/Rescue



Temporary Commercial Tents or Membrane Structures

This Standard Operating Guideline will be utilized for temporary commercial tents or membrane structures (to include air supported structures) greater than 100 square feet.

All temporary tent or membrane structures (to include air supported structures) will be erected and maintained in accordance with IFC 2021 Edition, Chapter 31.

Any rental company utilizing any temporary commercial tents or membrane structures will be required to have it inspected by the Montgomery Fire/Rescue Division of Inspections prior to use. If the tent or structure is found to be in compliance with the referenced codes, a "Permit for Temporary Commercial Tent or Membrane Structures" will be issued and occupancy may commence.

Process for Issuing a Tent Permit

- 1) The Rental Company wanting to use tent or air supported structure must schedule an appointment for inspection.
- 2) Upon arrival for inspection, a certificate showing the tent or structure material is flame resistant must be presented. This certificate must be from a recognized testing agency such as Underwriters Laboratory.
- 3) The ground enclosed by the tent or structure, area outside no less than ten (10) feet and up to thirty (30) feet from the tent or structure must be cleared of any flammable or combustible material or vegetation.
- 4) A twenty (20) foot fire lane must be provided on all sides of the tent or structure outside the stake line.
- 5) There must be no less than ten (10) feet between stake lines.

- 6) “**No Smoking**” signs *SHALL* be posted.
- 7) There will be no open flames underneath Temporary Commercial Tents or Membrane Structures. Charcoal type grills shall NOT be ignited underneath temporary structures.
- 8) There must be one (1) 2A10BC rated portable fire extinguisher provided for every two thousand (2000) square feet covered by tent or structure.
- 9) Temporary Commercial Tents or Membrane Structures with sides shall have exits illuminated and properly marked. The number of exits and their minimum width must meet the requirements indicated below:

Capacity	Minimum Exits	Minimum Width
0-199	2	6'
200-499	3	6'
500-999	4	8'
1000-1999	5	10'
2000-UP	6	10'

- 10) Generators shall be at least FIVE (5) feet from temporary membrane structures (Tents and Trailers).
- 11) Propane Tanks shall be secured in the upright position and protected from vehicular traffic.
- 12) Open, recreational, and cooking fire shall be constantly attended by a competent person until such fire is extinguished.

Tents and membrane structures having an access area of 400 square feet shall not be erected, operated, or maintained for any purpose without a permit.

Exceptions: Tents open on all sides that comply with the following.

- Individual tents having the maximum size of 700 square feet.
- The aggregate area of multiple tents placed side by side without a 12 feet fire break clearance not exceeding 700 square feet.
- A minimum clearance of 12 feet to all tents.

If there are any questions please call Montgomery Fire/Rescue Bureau of Inspections Office: 334-625-3916.